8011-01 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-81776; File No. SR-NYSE-2017-49)

September 29, 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Make Technical and Conforming Changes to Section 703.02 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that on September 20, 2017, New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to make technical and conforming changes to Section 703.02 (part2)(Stock Split/Stock Rights/Stock Dividend Listing Process) ("Section 703.02 (part2)") of the NYSE Listed Company Manual ("Listed Company Manual"). The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <a href="www.nyse.com">www.nyse.com</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C.78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

# A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

## 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to make certain technical and conforming changes to Section 703.02 (part2) of the Listed Company Manual.

Currently, Section 703.02(part 2) provides that "a distribution of less than 25% is traded "ex" (without the distribution) on and after the business day prior to the record date." Section 703.02 (part 2) was recently amended to conform to amendments to Securities and Exchange Act Rule 15c6-1(a), which shortened the settlement cycle from three days to two days ("T+2).<sup>4</sup> The tabulation chart in Section 703.02 (part2) setting forth the relation between record dates and normal ex-dividend dates according to the days of the week, however, was inadvertently not updated to reflect the shortened settlement cycle. The Exchange accordingly proposes to amend the tabulation chart to reflect two day settlements, as follows:

Record Date Normal Ex-Dividend Date

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See 17 CFR 240.15c6-1(a); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 80021 (February 14, 2017), 82 FR 10931(February 16, 2017) (SR-NYSE-2016-87) and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 81231 (July 27, 2017), 82 FR 36008 (August 2, 2017) (SR-NYSE-2017-38).

Monday preceding Friday

Tuesday preceding Monday

Wednesday preceding Tuesday

Thursday preceding Wednesday

Friday preceding Thursday

Saturday preceding Thursday

Sunday preceding Thursday

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and further the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

In particular, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes removes [sic] impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market by conforming the tabulation chart in Section 703.02 (part 2) of the Listed Company Manual to reflect a two day settlement, thereby reducing potential confusion, and making the Exchange's rules easier to navigate. The Exchange also believes that updating the illustrative material in the Listed Company Manual also removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market by removing confusion that may result from having outdated or

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

inconsistent material in the Listed Company Manual. The Exchange believes that aligning such material would not be inconsistent with the public interest and the protection of investors because investors will not be harmed and in fact would benefit from increased transparency, thereby reducing potential confusion.

### B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed change is not designed to address any competitive issue but rather is solely concerned with conforming Section 703.02 (part 2) of the Listed Company Manual to reflect the two day settlement cycle. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change will serve to promote clarity and consistency, thereby reducing burdens on the marketplace and facilitating investor protection.

## C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

# III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission</u> Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, provided that the self-regulatory organization has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change or such shorter time as designated by the

Commission,<sup>7</sup> the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>9</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section  $19(b)(2)(B)^{10}$  of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

## Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form
   (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NYSE-2017-49 on the subject line.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Exchange has fulfilled this requirement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

#### Paper comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2017-49. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All

submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2017-49 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 11

Eduardo A. Aleman Assistant Secretary

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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